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REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6, 17-22 AND 24-29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 17-22 and 24-29 stand rejected as being anticipated by the Abrari et al. patent (United States Patent No. 7,020,869, issued March 28, 2006, hereinafter "Abrari"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24, from which claims 2-5, 18-21 and 25-28 depend, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Claims 6, 22 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Abrari teaches a business rules user interface for development of adaptable enterprise applications. In particular, Abrari teaches a user interface that displays a rule set as an editable list of conditions and an editable list of actions. An editable list of if-values and an editable list of then-values link the conditions and actions. If-values and then-values are explicitly linked to each other. Furthermore, conditions and if-values are explicitly linked to each other, and then-values and actions are explicitly linked to each other in the displayed lists.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that Abrari fails to teach, show or suggest the novel invention of creating at least one individualized language resource. (i.e., individualized vocabulary term) by scoping rules and rule templates in accordance with user input or selections, as positively claimed in the Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24. Specifically, Applicants' claims 1, 17 and 24, as amended, recite:

1. A method of authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, the method comprising:
creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable

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object;

creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource, where said creating comprises:

creating at least one individualized rule template;

creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template; and

scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups chosen by a user;

organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set; and

transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

17. A system for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, the system comprising:

means for creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object;

means for creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource, where said creating comprises:

creating at least one individualized rule template;

creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template; and

scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups chosen by a user;

means for organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set; and

means for transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

24. A computer-readable media for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, which when executed by a processor performs the steps of:

creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one

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individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object;

creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource, where said creating comprises:

creating at least one individualized rule template;

creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template; and

scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups chosen by a user;

organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set; and

transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

The Applicants' invention is directed to a method and apparatus for business rules authoring and operation employing a customizable vocabulary. Rules engagement is a well-known and important technique for governance of distributed application systems. Rules are typically codified and rules systems are typically managed by programmers. Unfortunately, non-programmers such as business users are generally unable to participate in the management of distributed application systems due to lack of technical and/or programming expertise. Thus, either a business user must learn a programming language, or a programmer must anticipate the wishes of the business user and interpret them into a programming language.

The Applicants' invention addresses these concerns by providing an individualized language that allows a non-programmer to author logic directly carried out by a computer. The individualized language is a combination of permissible statements (e.g., if-then-else or the like) and a customizable vocabulary upon which the statements operate. The customizable vocabulary includes a plurality of individualized vocabulary terms (or language resources) in the parlance of the intended user that are each mapped onto an executable object. The vocabulary for authoring rules is scoped according to inputs, output and related vocabulary terms that are chosen by the user as

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input to and output from a rule set.

The Examiner concedes on Page 5 of the Final Office Action that "Abrari does not teach scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups". As such, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 17 and 24 are not anticipated by the teachings of Abrari. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 1, 17 and 24 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Claims 2-5, 18-21 and 25-28 depend from claims 1, 17 and 24 and recite additional limitations therefor. Accordingly, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5, 18-21 and 25-28 also are not anticipated by the teachings of Abrari. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 2-5, 18-21 and 25-28 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7-16, 23 AND 30 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-16, 23 and 30 stand rejected as being obvious over Abrari in view of the Serrano-Morales et al. patent (United States Patent No. 6,965,889, issued November 15, 2005, hereinafter "Serrano-Morales"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claim 1, from which claims 9-16 depend, as discussed above in order to more clearly recite aspects of the present invention. Claims 7-8, 23 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice.

As discussed above, Abrari does not teach, show or suggest creating at least one individualized language resource (*i.e.*, individualized vocabulary term) by scoping rules and rule templates in accordance with user input or selections, as claimed by the Applicants in independent claim 1. Serrano-Morales does not bridge this gap in the teachings of Abrari. Specifically, Serrano-Morales also does not teach, show or suggest scoping rules and rule templates in accordance with user input or selections. The portions of Serrano-Morales that the Examiner cites to teach this limitation, by contrast, teach defining, by a rule element provider, rule elements (*e.g.*, operators, variables, constants, conditions, actions) that may or may not be chosen by a user (*See, e.g.*, Serrano Morales, column 3, lines 50-52: "Rule element providers define a set of choices

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that a user may choose for a particular editable rule element defined by a template", emphasis added). This is not the same as scoping a vocabulary for authoring a rule. Moreover, the limitations as to which rule elements may or may not be chosen are not dictated by the user or the user's choices, but are rather dictated to the user. As such, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is not made obvious by the teachings of Abrari in view of Serrano-Morales. Therefore, the Applicants submit claim 1 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and is patentable thereunder.

Claims 9-16 depend from claim 1 and recite additional limitations therefor. Accordingly, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-16 also are not made obvious by the teachings of Abrari in view of Serrano-Morales. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 9-16 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

III. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the present final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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